

AXLE HOUSING COVER WITH VARIABLE THICKNESS**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

An axle housing cover is provided including a generally dome-shaped portion having a first thickness with the dome-shaped portion terminating in a perimeter edge. The perimeter edge has a second thickness greater than the first thickness with the perimeter edge providing a weld surface. Preferably, the second thickness is sufficiently thicker than the first thickness to provide adequate size and strength for the weld. The second thickness provides a weld height greater than the first thickness. Since the dome-shaped portion has a reduced thickness, reinforcing ribs may be formed in the dome-shaped portion to provide increased structural integrity. The cover may include a flange extending radially from the cover, which provides the weld surface that is then welded to the axle housing.

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